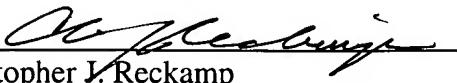


Since the Caruk reference is not prior art under §103(c), Applicants respectfully request that the rejection be withdrawn and that the claims be passed to allowance.

The Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' attorney if there are any additional questions.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 3- 8-05

By: 
Christopher J. Reckamp
Registration No. 34,414

Vedder, Price, Kaufman & Kammholz, P.C.
222 North LaSalle Street
Chicago, Illinois 60601
Phone: (312) 609-7599
Fax: (312) 609-5005